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SUBJECT: ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION SEMINAR ON EUROCOMMUNISM

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SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION
LEADERS PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE RECENT ATLANTIC TREATY
ASSOCIATION SEMINAR ON EUROCOMMUNISM HIGHLIGHTING PORTUGAL'S
COMMITMENT TO EUROPE AND THE ALLIANCE. PORTUGUESE
COMMUNISTS CHARACTERIZED THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR AS AN INTOLERABLE
INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.
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1. EUROCOMMUNISM AND THE CPSU: THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION
(ATA)/PORTUGUESE ATLANTIC COMMITTEE SPONSORED SEMINAR ON
EUROCOMMUNISM ENDED MAY 28. PRIME MINISTER SOARES, AMARO
DA COSTA (CDS), AND MENERES PIMENTEL AND PITTA E CUNHA (PSD)
ALL ADDRESSED THE GROUP. SUMMARIZING THE DISCUSSIONS, ATA
VICE-PRESIDENT SIR FRANK ROBERTS CONCLUDED THAT

THE DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY OF THE EUROCOMMUNIST MOVEMENT MUST BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO EACH COMMUNIST PARTY'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM; POLICY INDEPENDENCE FROM THE CPSU; AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTERGRATION AND DEMOCRATIZATION. ACCORDING TO ROBERTS, NO EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY HAS YET PASSED SUCH A LITMUS TEST.

2. SOARES QUESTIONS EUROCOMMUNIST OBJECTIVES: AT THE OPENING SESSION, PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES SAID THAT ALTHOUGH EURO-COMMUNISTS MAY REPRESENT A NEW EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORCE IN PURSUIT OF FREEDOM AND POLITICAL DEMOCRACY, SERIOUS DOUBTS AS TO THE SINCERITY OF SUCH MOVEMENTS REMAIN. SOARES NOTED THAT:

--NO "EUROCOMMUNIST" PARTY HAS YET EXPLAINED HOW, ONCE IN POWER, IT WOULD RECONILE THE TRANSITION TO COMMUNISM WITH INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES AND POLITICAL PLURALISM;

--THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SUCH A PARTY HAVING GAINED POWER VIA THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WOULD NOT MOVE TO CREATE A TOTALITARIAN STATE.

--ALTHOUGH EUROCOMMUNISM HAS FOUND SOME EXPRESSION IN LATIN COUNTRIES LIKE FRANCE, SPAIN, AND ITALY, PORTUGAL HAS REMAINED IMMUNE. THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY REMAINS FAITHFUL TO THE RIGID MARXIST-LENINIST LINE OF THE CPSU.

3. PCP CHARGES INTERFERENCE: THE PCP REACTION TO THE ATA SPONSORED SEMINAR WAS A FULL PAGE EDITORIAL IN PARTY MOUTHPIECE "O DIARIO" ENTITLED "PORTUGAL IS NOT A COLONY OF NATO" AND A PCP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNIQUE WHICH DESCRIBED THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR AS "AN INTOLERABLE ATTEMPT TO MOLD PORTUGUESE PUBLIC OPINION AND INTERFERE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL POLITICAL LIFE." "O DIARIO" WENT ON TO ATTACK NATO/US CONTROL OF DECISIONS REGARDING TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR PORTUGAL, THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES, AND THE ALLEGED SUBJUGATION OF PORTUGUESE SOVEREIGNTY TO THE DICTATES OF ALLIANCE POLICY. ACCORDING TO THE PCP, THE ATA SEMINAR WAS ANOTHER IMPERIALIST ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE REVOLUTION.

4. COMMENT: THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR BREATHED NEW LIFE INTO THE PORTUGUESE ATLANTIC COMMITTEE -- DORMANT SINCE THE 1960'S. THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF SOCIALIST, SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, AND CENTER DEMOCRAT LEADERS IS A CLEAR SIGN OF GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION PARTY DEDICATION TO THE ALLIANCE AND PORTUGAL'S EUROPEAN OPTION. BLOOMFIELD

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